Linking of Major Rivers for Waterways

648. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken by Government to link some major rivers for waterways;

(b) whether the proposal to link Mahanadi with Godavari was one of such proposals which have been pending for implementation;

(c) if so, the estimated cost of the project; and

(d) the steps taken by Govt. to implement the project expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The Central Government has prepared a National Perspective for optimum utilisation of Water Resources Comprising of two components viz. Himalayan rivers development and Peninsular rivers development. There are 19 water transfer links under the Himalayan component and 17 links under Peninsular component.

National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was established in 1982 by the Government of India under the Ministry of Water Resources to undertake studies on National Perspective of Water Resources Development.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 3616 crores.

(d) National Water Development Agency has been entrusted to prepare the pre-feasibility and feasibility reports of the projects. After the pre-feasibility studies are completed, these are circulated to the concerned Basin States for their comments/suggestions. The projects can be considered for implementation after necessary agreements are reached amongst the concerned States.

Setting up of National Institute of Computer and Allied Sciences

649. CHAUDHARY HARMOHAN SINGH:
SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Steering committee set up to work out modalities for setting up Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Computer and Allied Sciences in the country has since submitted its report; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes sir.

(b) The Report is under active consideration of the Government.

Assistance to Punjab for Agricultural and Industrial Loans

650. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minsiter of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of financial grants/assistance given by the Central Government to the State of Punjab for providing agricultural and industrial loans during 1992-93, 1994-95 and so far in 1995-96, District-wise; and

(b) the amount of assistance to be proposed for the aforesaid prupose for the next two years for the state of Punjab?

THE MINSITER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) There is no scheme being implemented by the Department of Agriculture for providing grants/assistance to the States to provide

agricultural and industrial loans. Many schemes of financial assistance to the States are being implemented for agricultural development. List of schemes and the amount sanctioned under each scheme during the last 3 years is given in the Annexure [*See* Appendix 175, annexure No. 12]

(b) State-wise earmarking of funds is not done in advance for each scheme. The amount of sanction depends upon factors like proposals of the State Governments, availability of funds, utilisation of previously sanctioned funds etc. Hence, it is not possible to specify the amount of funds likely to be released to Punjab for the next two years.

सरकार की सिंचाई परियोजनाओं को पूरा किए जाने संबंधी नीति

651. श्री राम जेठमलानी:
श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज:

क्या जल संसाधन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने विभिन्न राज्य सरकारों से परामर्श लेने के बाद यह सर्वसम्मत निर्णय लिया है कि वर्तमान अधूरी जल संसाधन (सिंचाई) परियोजनाओं को पूरा करने से पहले किसी नई सिंचाई परियोजना के निर्माण कार्य को आरंभ नहीं किया जाएगा;

(ख) यदि हां, तो देश में कुल कितनी अधूरी सिंचाई परियोजनाएं निर्माणाधीन हैं और इन परियोजनाओं में कुल कितना निवेश किया गया है;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने इन परियोजनाओं को पूरा करने के लिए आवश्यक अतिरिक्त राशि का अनुमान लगाया है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस प्रयोजनार्थ कितनी अतिरिक्त राशि की आवश्यकता है और ऐसी सभी वर्तमान अधूरी सिंचाई परियोजनाओं के पूरा होने के बाद कुल कितनी सिंचाई क्षमता का सृजन होने का अनुमान है?

जल संसाधन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० वी० रंगैया नायडू): (क) राज्यों/संघ शासित क्षेत्रों के जल संसाधन और सिंचाई मंत्रियों के 22 अगस्त, 1995 को नई दिल्ली में हुए 11वें सम्मेलन में यह सिफारिश की गई कि जब तक चालू परियोजनाएं पूरी नहीं हो जाती तब तक नई परियोजनाओं को बढ़ावा नहीं दिया जाना चाहिए और केवल उन नई परियोजनाओं का चयन करने में अधिक ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिए जिन्हें अपवादात्मक मामलों में कार्यान्वयन के लिए शुरू किया जा सकता है, जो संतुलित विकास आदि के कारणों से आवश्यक है।

(ख) आठवीं योजना में 158 बृहद, 226 मध्यम और 95 विस्तार, नवीकरण/आधुनिकीकरण योजनाएं निर्माणाधीन हैं। मार्च, 1995 तक इन परियोजनाओं पर 34157.28 करोड़ रुपए की राशि व्यय होने का अनुमान है।

(ग) जी हां।

(घ) इन परियोजनाओं को पूरा करने के लिए अनुमानित रूप से 36839.06 करोड़ रुपए की अतिरिक्त राशि की आवश्यकता है। इन परियोजनाओं की अनुमानित सिंचाई क्षमता 24.812 मिलियन हेक्टेयर है।

Modification in the Minimum Support Price-System

652. SHRI MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ruled out modification in the Minimum Support Price System;

(b) if so, whether it has been admitted that due to certain drawbacks big farmers with better inputs succeed in getting higher production and benefits from the MSP as compared to small and marginal farmers;

(c) if so, the main reasons for not modifying the minimum support price for the benefit of small and marginal farmers;

(d) whether the country has achieved all time high foodgrain production due to the hard work of small and marginal farmers but no benefit is being provided to them; and

(e) if so, the main reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (e) The minimum support prices of major